edly requesting the National Airports Authority to provide said facilities; if so, whether National Airports Authority has cooperated with the Airlines in this regard; and

(c) by when airports in the Eastern sector are likely to become operational for Boeing flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Passenger amenities such as toilets, ambulance with provision of first-aid facilities, drinking water, snack bar, telephone etc. are available at the airports at Agartala, Aizwal, Imphal, Guwahati, Dibrugarh (Mohanbari), Silchar etc. Improvement of facilities is a continuous process and is reviewed periodically. Night landing facilities have been installed at Guwahati and Agartala and these are proposed to be provided at Imphal and Dibrugarh (Mohanbari) airports.

(b) Periodical requests are received from Indian Airlines and Vayudoot for upgradation of facilities. Their suggestions are given due consideration and facilities improved, where necessary, to the extent possible keeping in view the availability of resources.

(c) Indian Airlines is already operating B-737 services to/through all airports in the Eastern region, which it serves.

Fare of Air India and the Royal Jordanian Airlines for Calcutta-Jeddah-Calcutta

105. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government have decided to pay the entire amount of 612 Haj pilgrims to Royal Jordanian Airlines for Calcutta-Jeddah-Calcutta journeys in foreign exchange;

(b) whether Air India complied with the directive of his Ministry to charge 85 per cent of the IATA fare for Haj pilgrims and what was the IATA fare allowed last year;

(c) whether Air India has raised the fare this year to rupees 11,604 for Calcutta-Jeddah-Calcutta journeys and what is the fare fixed by Royal Jordanian Airlines for the same journey this year; and

(d) whether West Bengal Government had formally requested the Ministry of Civil Aviation and other Ministries to arrange for Haj flights independent of the Central Haj Committee, Bombay; if so, whether such permission would also be given to the Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh Governments to negotiate with foreign Airlines to fly Haj pilgrims, directly from their States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The West Bengal State Haj Committee have arranged Haj charter flights of 612 pilgrims of West Bengal from Calcutta to Jeddah and back through Royal Jordanian Airlines. Government have no information about the mode of payment.

(b) Air India has adhered to the directive of the Ministry to fix charter fare levels at 85 per cent of last year's IATA fares, despite increase in IATA fares effective May 1988.

(c) The West Bengal State Haj Committee arranged Haj charter flights of 612 pilgrims of West Bengal from Calcutta to Jeddah and back through Royal Jordanian Airlines at a fare of Rs. 8300/-. Air India was not asked to operate.

(d) The West Bengal Haj Committee negotiated with Royal Jordanian Airlines to carry Haj pilgrims of West Bengal and asked for permission of Ministry of External Affairs. 'No objection' from the Ministry of Ex-

ternal Affairs and this Ministry was given. The cases of States will be considered on merits at the time of operation of Haj charters.

Railway accidents in Orissa

106. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of railway accidents which took place in Orissa during 1986-87 and 1987-88, stating the causes thereof;

(b) what is the number of persons killed and injured in the accidents and

(c) what is the amount of compensation paid to the next of kin of those killed and to the injured?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Statistics of railway accidents and related information are maintained railway-wise and not State-wise.

Four laning of national highway No. 5

107. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether four-laning of National Highway No. 5 from O.M.P. Junction to Mahanadi bridge in Orissa is in progress;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the total estimated cost of the proposal; and

(c) what is the time schedule for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated cost of the proposal covering a length of 1.78 km. is Rs. 91.42 lakhs.

(c) The work is targetted for completion in December, 1988.

Promotion of beach resorts along Western Coast

108. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to conduct a survey of the entire Western Coast for promoting the beach resorts; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government propose to conduct a Tourism Potential Survey of Western Ghats which will include most parts of Western Coast. The objectives of the study are the following:—

(i) to prepare an inventory of upto-date tourism resources of Western Ghats.

(ii) to assess the infrastructural facilities in each of the centres and its present level of utilisation.

(iii) to identify the factors inhibiting the growth of tourism, both domestic and international, in this region.

(iv) to assess the potential tourism demand, expected benefits and its socio-economic effects.

(v) to suggest specific means for improving tourist inflow to the region and to out-line an investment programme designed to provide necessary tourist infrastructure facilities to meet the growth in demand.

The Government is now in the process of selecting a suitable agency for undertaking the survey.